

Why is a great early childhood teacher important?

- Children in great programs with great teachers do better in school and in life.
- Parents are able to work and be more productive when they know their children are with a great teacher.
- Taxpayers see a significant return on their investment in great teachers in great programs...about a \$7 return for every dollar invested.



NC Institute for Child Development Professionals
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Every Young Child Deserves a Great Teacher Every Day.



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Voices from the field describe a great early childhood teacher as one who...

- Has excellent math, literacy and communication skills
- Has formal education in early childhood
- Is a lifelong learner
- Instills the love of learning in children
- Is reflective and observant
- Understands and supports each child's needs
- Has knowledge about how a child develops
- Helps children grow emotionally, physically, socially, cognitively and creatively
- Finds the strengths in every child
- Has a good set of instructional tools to meet the needs of every child
- Is purposeful in her/his teaching
- Is someone children can count on to be there every day throughout the year
- Communicates with parents regularly and involves them in the classroom happenings
- Partners with parents around their child's education and development
- Is proud of and committed to her/his profession
- Provides a safe and nurturing environment for the children
- Keeps young children safe from physical and emotional harm
- Embraces the cultural and linguistic diversity of the children and families in her/his classroom
- Is a certified Early Educator



What supports a great early childhood teacher in North Carolina?

Professional Recognition

Early Educator Certification provides both a professional recognition of and rewards for education earned.

Scholarships for College Education

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® comprehensive scholarships provide the needed funding to allow low-income teachers to gain a college education and remain in the classroom.

Salary Supplements

Child Care WAGE\$® supplements the low salaries of early childhood teachers with periodic education-based wage enhancements to encourage teachers to increase their education and stay in their classrooms with young children.

Continuing Education

Child care resource & referral and Smart Start agencies provide technical assistance and training to aid teachers in improving their knowledge and practice.

